

LEAGUE SEEKING WIDER SCOPE BY STATE OPTION

Legislative Committee
Outlines Attitude of
Anti-Saloon Forces.

TAKE NO DRASTIC
STAND JUST NOW

Governor-Elect Mann Supports
Measure Signed by Dr. Can-
non, Urging Passage of Law
for State-Wide Vote
When One-Fourth of
Electors Ask It

STATE-WIDE VOTE
IF PEOPLE ASK IT

Whereas, it has become evident that the present legislation concerning the sale of ardent spirits is not adequate to protect either the individual or society from the baneful effects of this destructive traffic, and whereas the local option policy as being used by the liquor traffic as a method of obtaining depots of supplies in the heart of dry territory, and whereas the conditions in the larger cities of the State are such as to render it practically impossible to obtain a fair expression of the will of the people,

Resolved, That the convention hereby instructs the legislative committee of the Anti-Saloon League of Virginia to request the General Assembly of Virginia to enact such legislation as will allow the voters of the State to call an election upon the question of a State-wide prohibition liquor law whenever such an election shall be demanded by a number of qualified voters equal to 25 per cent. of the number of votes cast in the last State election for State officers.—Resolution recommended.

Abandoning the policy of local operation for which the Anti-Saloon League of Virginia has fought for a number of years, and under which the greater part of the State has become dry territory, the legislative committee recommended last night to the ninth annual convention of that organization in favor of a State law which will provide for a state option. While not contemplating the immediate election of the submission of the question of State-wide prohibition,

the Legislature, the report called for the passage of an act which will allow the voters of Virginia to call an election on the question of State-wide prohibition whenever one-fourth of the qualified voters may demand it.

In his annual address President Henry Pierce Atkins took the ground that the time had come for a forward step. There were not lacking signs in the meeting from the applause which broke forth at times—despite the request for silence by the pastor of the church—when the report of the committee is announced.

No Unwive Enthusiasm. D. D. who conducted the opening devotionals exercised, prayed earnestly that the body might not be "swept from its fever by unwive enthusiasm" and Governor-elect William H. Mann, in a thoughtful and well prepared review of the liquor question in Virginia, openly supported the report of the legislative committee, arguing that no State-wide issue should be made until the league

public sentiment, rather than to be in advance of such a sentiment. For himself he repeated that he still believed in the local option method as calculated to produce the best results, yet asserted that if a State-wide election were held he personally would vote against the saloons.

The actual resolutions advocated by the committee on legislation are accompanied by an extended report, printed in full below, in which the views at the stand taken are advanced at some length. It starts by repeating and defending the resolutions of the Norfolk convention of last year, and argues against the views

On the other hand, the convention is held to be absolutely free and unhampered by any declaration made by the convention of 1903, which distinctly asserted the temporary and expedient character of the resolution, and left the league free to declare for State-wide prohibition when-

over the way might be open. The question is declared to be not one of the right of the league to change its position, but is whether the time has come for such a change.

Has Served Its Time.

Starting from that point the report proceeds to give a series of arguments why the local option plan has served its time and should be retired in favor of State option. The statement is

ade that while it may yet be useful in some places, the league has gone as far as it can under local option with profit, and that the time has come for an extension of that policy to the State at large.

The several methods by which a state-wide prohibitory law might be enacted are then taken up in detail and dissected, the committee declaring its opinion that the prohibitive

For that reason the committee does not favor calling on the present General Assembly to pass a State-wide prohibition law. It is said to be un-